

TOC H JOURNAL

NEWS VIEWS AND IDEAS

JULY 1961



PUBLISHED BY TOC H AT FIFTEEN
TRINITY SQUARE — LONDON EC3



NINEPENCE

Garden Party

The eleventh annual Toc H and BELRA Garden Party will be held again this year at The Holme, Bedford College, Regent's Park, on Saturday, July 22. The opening, at 2 p.m., is by Sir Miles Clifford, K.B.E., C.M.G., and tickets, price 1s., can be obtained in advance from BELRA, 8 Portman Street, London, W.1. Mark VII, 15 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1. or from London Toc H Branch Secretaries.

New Forum

The Summer number of this Toc H Quarterly magazine is now ready. Among its contents are articles by Alan Paton, Anthony Brown, R. W. Dargavel, Harry Devis and Iain Fraser. Send for a copy now (1s. 2d. including postage), or better still, a Postal Order for 4s. 6d. will cover a whole year's subscription, including postage.

Toc H Diaries

The 1962 edition of the Toc H Diary is now in the press. Delivery is promised by the manufacturers for mid-September and the cost will remain the same as this year: 4s. 3d., or fitted with pencil 4s. 9d., postage free. It is not too early to reserve copies now.

Advertisers

Manufacturers of a wide range of articles of interest to our readers will find the JOURNAL pages helpful in making their goods and services known. Enquiries about space and charges will be welcomed by Stan Waters, who handles our advertising, at Messrs. Arthur H. Wheeler & Co., St. Stephen's House, Victoria Embankment, London, S.W.1.

Ourselves

The Toc H JOURNAL is published monthly eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and **there is no August number**. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year. N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen copies.

THIRTY-NINTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOC H JOURNAL



JULY 1961

Letters and articles are welcomed and are
printed as individual points of view only

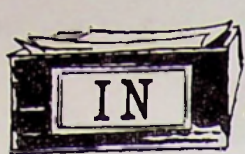
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COVER PICTURE: Chipping Campden members
dishing-up at their summer camp run for Midland
youngsters.

Photograph by courtesy of Evesham Journal

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AND



notes & comment

'Scout's Honour'

THE REVIEW OF THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE Boy Scouts Association, *B.P.'s Scouts*, published in last month's JOURNAL, has prompted our old friend NICK LACK to draw attention to a paragraph apposite to Toc H printed below. This comes in the chapter headed 'Patterns for Prosperity' which refers to a serious aftermath to 'all the joyful junketings of a Jamboree' in 1929, when a Development Committee had been appointed.

"Their early concern was with membership: there was no enthusiasm for wholesale expansion but a great deal for a general raising of standards, although it was realised that this commendable policy—which would demand the removal of the unsuitable and half-hearted—could, in fact, result in a temporary *decrease* in membership but this was accepted. This concern for standards throughout the Movement's history could have been, and ought to have been, one of its greatest strengths but some of its potentially valuable leaders have either not recognised it or have shrunk from the decisive and perhaps unpopular action which was called for. This has not been wholly sorted out over the years for in some places excellent leaders have been kept out of the Movement by too low standards which have also kept out boys who might have meant much to Scouting."

Taper Take-over

THE WORKING MEN'S CLUB AT RUSTHALL IS also the meeting place of Rushthall Joint Branch. In their store cupboard, KEN ALEXANDER tells us, were a dozen or so tapers lying lifeless and forgotten since the days when, as a group, they were used with the Rushlight. On Monday, May 15, the Working Men's Club had an important evening when the famous John Pullman was the guest of honour and was giving an exhibition of snooker and billiards shots to the Club Members. A highlight of the evening was the raffling of his cue for charity. Then a power failure throughout Kent ruined everything—at least until the Toc H members who were watching thought of the Rushlight tapers. The tapers were lit and handed around and the raffle went forward without any further hitch. The Club members were most grateful and on this occasion at any rate there was certainly no doubt about the Branch's light shining.

Death on the Roads

WE ARE GLAD TO SHARE WITH READERS THE following prayers written by WILLIAM TAINSH, a member of Melbourne Branch. written at the instigation of the National Safety Council of Australia for use in churches in Australia before the holidays.

Almighty God, as we go forth from our homes at this time to seek the quiet of the hills, the wonder of the sea and all the golden beauty of summer, grant that we may be filled with a deep sense of Thy fatherly care and love.

Make us determined to see that the highway and the byway shall be places of joy and safety, untouched by the shadow of death or disaster.

Hear, then, from each of us our high resolve:

I solemnly vow that no act or omission of mine shall cause hurt or harm to anyone. Let me so realise my duty to others that I shall see every man on the road as my brother, every woman as my sister and every child a precious life in Thy sight. So help me, God. Amen.

Bees and Honey

CHERITON BRANCH, IN KENT, MUST BE THE ONLY Branch in Britain owning two hives of bees, with an experienced bee-keeper, F. Underwood, to look after the colonies and handle them. The hives, with bees and all appliances, were a gift to the Branch from Major G. N. Saunders, a bee-keeper of many years' standing. From the sale of the resultant honey it is hoped to make quite a lot of money, to put towards the Branch's fund for building a meeting-place of their own. We hope the venture proves highly successful and that they won't get stung.

Huddersfield Survey

ALMOST TWICE AS MANY WOMEN AS MEN ARE interested in religion, according to a recent pilot survey made in Huddersfield. The survey, supported by the Methodist Church, which covered all aspects of religion, says that while 25 per cent. of the men were definitely not interested, only 14 per cent. of the women had no interest. Although 83 per cent. of the 1,273 people interviewed said they would call themselves Christians, 62 per cent. said it was not necessary to have anything to do with the Church to be a Christian. The Rev. Frank Thewlis, Superintendent of the Queen Street Mission, from where the survey was carried out, said: "The results show that the Church has largely lost contact with the man in the street. Most of the people who said it was not necessary to go to church said that it was irrelevant, out of touch or out of date." The Survey was carried out by twenty-two students, mostly from Oxford University, who spent a week visiting the town's public houses, clubs and coffee bars. They did not interview anyone at a church organisation.



Contributed by GEOFF MARTIN

OUTSIDE

IN THE April *Compass*, Padre DONALD LEAVEY, its new Editor, expressed his thoughts as he reflected upon South Africa being now outside the Commonwealth. This is what he wrote:—

Outside the Commonwealth! What is it going to mean to South Africa? No one can tell yet, though it is obvious that the old links that bound Britain and the Union together, the bonds of affection as well as the bonds of common economic interest, are not going to be shattered easily. There will be a duty, too, for those who value these ties to see that they are maintained. In Toc H we are members of a world-wide fellowship and we will seek to keep it so, for we know the strength that comes to us from our associations with others. We will try to keep others informed about ourselves so that they will be able to share with us something of the difficulties that surround us here. We will try to learn from them the principles that may help us find the right way to follow.

There is always a danger in being outside, for one may become an outsider, the sort of person who, from his grudge against those within, sets himself up as a law to himself. It will be a tragedy for all the people of South Africa if there should develop in our land an aggressive pride in our own separateness. No nation can stand alone today.

National loneliness can be as destructive as individual loneliness. Toc H has always had a welcome for the lonely. The lepers, who felt so terribly their sense of isolation found friends in Toc H. Many a stranger in a new town and many a lonely person in his own home town have found a fellowship with us. They are people that we must be on the look-out for, and, if we are really friendly people, we shall find them drawn to us.

Some of the loneliest people today are the Africans who are seeking for a way of life that will satisfy their spiritual and mental aspirations. They are often very much outside. They feel a sense of separation from their own group as well as from ours or any other. They are groping like us. Have we, since the last Council, found any of them and brought them inside?

When the Jews took Jesus to crucify him, they took him outside the city walls, he was buried outside, and so, too, it was that His

resurrection was outside the city in the peaceful garden of good Joseph. But he did not stay outside. He sought that broken fellowship of distracted men and gave them hope again. And they, too, had to get out again from the frightened seclusion of the Upper Room into the frightening world around. Our Branch meeting can be a nice little funkhole and we may wish to stay in it. But like the apostles we are told to take courage and get outside. There is a job to be done there and it must not be shirked. It's not a bad thing to be outside if it gives you a chance to bring other people in. It's just as dangerous to be shut in as it is to be shut out. In both cases you need friends. In both cases you have got to find them and also to be worthy of them. A nation or a person who is worth knowing will never lack for friends.



First Birthday of the Natalis Group, Durban. Ten members augmented by members of Durban, Hillary and Pinetown Branches.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO INDIA

From Professor Samuel Mathai, Hon. Commissioner of Toc H India:—

When Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip were in Delhi during their recent tour of India, it was arranged that representatives of certain societies that had a wide Commonwealth basis and had strong ties with the United Kingdom should be presented to Her Majesty and Prince Philip. Toc H was included amongst the three or four societies thus selected; and as Honorary India Commissioner for Toc H I was invited for a brief informal audience with the Royal Visitors.

The meeting took place during a garden party at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Republic Day. Both the Queen and the Prince in talking to me showed considerable interest in Toc H in India. I reminded the

Queen that she was the Patron of Toc H and that members of Toc H in India feel that they have special relationship to her. She enquired how Toc H was progressing in India, whether the Movement was popular, and whether there were difficulties in keeping the Movement going.



Bob Kernick, Hon. Treasurer, and Mrs. Winifred Joseph, the prime movers in the work at the Bangalore Leprosarium described in the May Journal.

I told Her Majesty that while the Movement was not in the same vigorous condition in India as it was during the War, there were still a number of groups and Branches, particularly in South India, which were in good spirit. I explained to Her Majesty briefly some of the difficulties of adaptation and adjustment and she showed considerable interest and sympathy.

Members of Toc H, I am sure, will be glad to know about this audience that I had with the Queen and Prince Philip and to know that Toc H was remembered during this great historic visit of British royalty to India.

BIRDS AND FISHES

Some time ago one of the South African Branches in the Cape, in the course of their regular hospital visiting, had cause to present a patient in the T.B. wing with a goldfish. The effect was so beneficial to the patient that the hospital asked Toc H to provide goldfish for all the T.B. patients in the hospital, which they then set about doing. Now, according to *Klets*, ROBIN BEEK of Liesbeek Branch reports:—

We have been busy distributing canaries and cages to blind folk who greatly appreciate the feeling of companionship engendered by the song of a bird in the home. So far we have given out twenty-one birds but have a waiting list of ninety.

Don't just say brown

—say **Hovis**

A New Journal Competition

‘CONCERNING TOC H’

During the next twelve months, readers are being asked to submit original articles for publication in the JOURNAL.

As long as it has a bearing on Toc H, the subject matter can be serious or light-hearted, factual or imaginary, short or long (with a maximum length of approximately 500 words).

All entries for the competition will be considered by an Editorial Panel, and those deemed suitable will be given a distinguishing mark ★ and printed in the JOURNAL.

Every Branch and group is asked to spend a little time each month to consider the articles and decide which has the greatest interest for them. Their decision to be noted by a ‘Scorer’ appointed for the year.

At the conclusion of the Competition, the ‘Scorer’ will ask the other members to consider the eleven selected articles and to decide by vote which they consider the most outstanding.

On the basis of Branch and group votes received, the writer of the highest-placed entry will be entitled to nominate any Branch or group he chooses to receive an award of £5 5s. 0d. for the unit funds.

Full details, with Entry Form, will be given in the September JOURNAL.

Ten-minute Tapes

"IT IS OFTEN urged that TOC H must adapt itself to modern ways of living" wrote MAYNE ELSON in a JOURNAL article (March, 1960), and went on to suggest a number of ways in which Branches might use tape-recordings.

One of the suggestions was for employing specially made ten-minute recordings, not as substitutes for inspiring speakers, but for starting discussions within the Branch.

Mayne, in company with the London Staff team, had already produced nine such recordings and since his article appeared, these have been in continual use by Branches both in London and elsewhere.

Now, a further three ten-minute tapes have been added to the collection, and there is also a longer one (L/12, twenty-nine minutes) of part of a fascinating talk given by Tubby at Mark III on "Christian Truth and Evidence".

Here is the complete list of recordings made to date "to start you talking". They are all on three-inch spools, and made at a recording speed of $3\frac{3}{4}$ -inches per second:

- L/1 JOBMASTERY—*Taking a New Look*. MAYNE ELSON. 8 minutes.
- L/2 BRANCH MEETINGS. BRIAN KINGSLEY-DAVIES. 9 minutes.
- L/3 INITIATION—*Making the most of it*. MAYNE ELSON. 8 minutes.
- L/4 THE CEREMONY OF LIGHT. Padre SAM EVANS. 11 minutes.
- L/5 THE THREE P's OF TOC H—*Some Thoughts on our Method*. MAYNE ELSON. 10 minutes.
- L/6 YOUNGER MEN FOR TOC H—*A Discussion*. MAYNE ELSON and BRIAN KINGSLEY-DAVIES. 13 minutes.
- L/7 SOME TIPS ON SPEAKING IN PUBLIC. BILL CAIN (Ruislip Branch). 13 minutes.
- L/8 THE ART OF CHAIRMANSHIP. RONALD SYMONS. 10 minutes.
- L/9 PREJUDICES & PUNCTUALITY. CYRIL CATTELL (Area Secretary, Kent & Sussex). 10 minutes.
- L/10 MONEY MATTERS. MAYNE ELSON with interruptions from BRIAN KINGSLEY-DAVIES. 9 minutes.

L/11 TOC H AND SPORT. BRIAN KINGSLEY-DAVIES with interruptions from MAYNE ELSON. 6 minutes.

L/13 PLANNING THE PROGRAMME. The meeting of an imaginary Branch Executive. 15 minutes.

These recordings can be borrowed singly for a fixed date, by any Branch in Britain, by sending 2s. 6d. to the Publications Department at Toc H Headquarters.

Our Village

A. BUILDER

THIS IS A remarkable village and people. Active in arts, crafts, horticulture and all manner of progressive activities, e.g. British Legion, W.I., R.A.F.A., N.S.P.C.C., British Red Cross, "Over 60 Club". Scouts, Historical and Literary Society, Horticultural Society, Conservative Association, Labour ditto; over twenty different organisations all of which function; and our thirteenth century Church under the kindly leadership of the Rector.

None among this galaxy is more active than the little bunch of Toc H men; always quietly going about their jobs. be it jumble sales (the village seems to revel in these—at least one a month by various bodies), visiting the patients at Eversfield Chest Hospital, providing annually a splendid tea party and entertainment for the Old Folks (140 of them) with the generous catering assistance of the W.I., and supplementing the efforts of others wherever needful.

Though I have been a Builder for more years than I care to remember I had never attended a Branch meeting till I came here. (Verb. sap. to other 'Backsliding' Builders. if any!). We had hardly been here forty-eight hours last year before attending a World Refugee Meeting called by the Rector. Among others present a man stood up to inform the meeting of what Toc H was already doing and was prepared to do; I spoke to him afterwards and was warmly welcomed at their weekly Toc H meeting on the following Monday evening.

A small band of earnest, jolly men, meeting together regularly and seriously committed to the work, week by week, of



"Our Village": The Toc H Branch meets at a little house by the third electric-cable post on the left.

Toc H and all it stands for. So, therefore, I have been privileged to do small jobs from time to time and glad I am to be associated with this work.

Never a dull moment in this village what with one society and another. Far more restful to live in than London, believe me, though I'm hanged if I'd return from choice!

In Church on Sunday one spots in the choir a Toc H man among the basses, another among the tenors, and maybe another has already, as sidesman, shown one to a pew. One spots around the Church members of other Associations and Societies.

Of course, as average Britons, we have our grumbles and groans, but at least we can channel them to good purpose.

Yes, village life has much to commend it along such lines. Perhaps I should add that in the past this village has held the Annual Shield more than once as the most progressive village in East Sussex. I'm hardly surprised either!

'FOCUS ON TOC H'

Remember to send in that entry for the Photographic Competition. Details on end pages

From People to Places

F. G. CHESWORTH

An account of some war-time contacts with a courageous and highly independent people, together with an outline sketch of their home background

1. People

JOHN GIBBONS, a prolific writer of homely guide books, used to say that he could travel anywhere in Europe provided he knew the two local words for 'beer' and 'bed'. It was, however, a handful of biscuits and a slab of chocolate that, for me, first broke through the Yugoslav language barrier.

The time was late afternoon in the winter of 1943, and the place the quayside at the port of Bari in Southern Italy. Under a grey and glowering Adriatic sky were grouped several hundred peasant women and children, with an elderly man dotted here and there amongst them. Newly rescued by our Marine Commandos from the enemy occupying their country, most of them had never before travelled more than a few miles from their village birthplace.

ANGUS JOHNSTON and I, both Toc H staff men, had gone down to the quay to lend a hand in getting the refugees into army lorries that would carry them to a reception camp beyond the city. Despite our warm leather jerkins, mufflers and thick battle-dress, we shivered in the bleak wind as we watched the slow-moving line of bewildered folk journeying into an unknown world.

The youngsters, poorly clad and many of them barefooted, remained quiet and impassive. Quiet, that is, until we unwittingly split-up some close-knit family group. Then panic and the Yugoslav equivalent to Bedlam broke-out. Lacking the gift of tongues, it took the combined efforts of Cockney and Scot to persuade the homeless ones that grandma or aunt would really and truly be following closely in the next lorry. This was the point where the small ration of biscuit and chocolate, of necessity shared out to only the tiniest tots, proved more eloquent than words in making them understand that they were among friends.

Back in Bari, we were to meet other Yugoslavs and, in fact, were able to employ a number of them in the Toc H Services hostel on the Corso Cavour. These were mostly well-to-do refugees who had fled the Nazi occupation only to find themselves interned in an Italian concentration camp. The arrival of British troops brought with it their release to a precarious freedom, but little hope of returning home until the war had run its full course. Without exception, those who found work with Toc H proved to be intelligent, loyal and scrupulously honest. We came to know and like them very much indeed.

Elsewhere in the old town others of their countrymen, the Partisans, both men and women serving on equal terms, were undergoing a stiff course of training with British instructors. Stern, purposeful folk they were, possessors of a rigid code and a puritanical air that would have matched-up well with our own earlier 'roundheads'. Not for them the comparative comfort of a safe Italian town, but a burning desire to be up and doing, to return to the task of freeing their ravaged homeland.

Change of scene

A sudden 'posting' brought about a change of scene to the Toc H Services Club at Maison Blanche in Algeria. At this period of the war, the RAF station there was a sort of airways Clapham Junction for North Africa. One morning, in company with VIN ALLEN and BEN MILES, we watched with surprise the arrival of 800 Yugoslavs. These were all youngsters, who, having escaped from the German invaders, had volunteered for service with the British forces.

Dressed in regulation RAF uniform, it was hard to spot any difference in them from our own lads; the only distinguishing mark being a red star worn on the front of their forage caps. Once settled in, they proved to be gluttons for work and took life very seriously indeed.

Talking with one of their officers who spoke his own brand of English, I asked how we could best help them in their off-duty hours. I well remember his reply. "When we have the work for the day finished", he said, "we must study the true Slavonic culture to take back to our oppressed people." I countered, that this was all very well but in England we had a saying "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy". "Yes, yes", he answered. "we have the same proverb in Slovenia"—apparently this is one of the many proverbs shared around

Europe. Asked what they intended to do about it, he explained that his men were not allowed to play card-games as they were considered foolish and the cause of quarrels; but that Tito had endorsed the value of chess as a means of developing intelligence—and so chess it was.

A thorough-going search resulted in a haul of seven sets of chessmen and thereafter chess sessions were a regular feature of Toc H Maison Blanche, with British airmen playing Yugoslav opponents—matching minds, although unable to share a common tongue. Honesty compels me to add that, almost invariably, the Yugoslavs proved winners; all their players seemed to possess a special aptitude for the game.



Sesana: 'Jock' Brown entertaining friends in the garden of Toc H Services Club.

The end of the Italian campaign found Toc H at work with the troops of the famed British XIII Corps in Northern Italy. With the fighting over, politics had once more come to the fore and relations with the Yugoslavs were now severely strained, especially in and around the disputed territory of Trieste. In order to visit the Toc H Services Club at Pola, on the Istrian Peninsular, a journey of some ninety miles over a rough track, it was now necessary to obtain a safe conduct chit, issued and stamped by the Yugoslav provost-marshal. Making the journey in company with the late HOWARD DUNNETT (afterwards Toc H Overseas Secretary), we were duly held up at

the check-point for examination. Howard thereupon produced his clothing ration card, which after being carefully examined by the young peasant soldier, upside down, was returned with a smart salute and we were free to proceed.

But life was tougher in the rugged, mountainous country to the north of Trieste, where 'JOCK' BROWN was Warden of a flourishing Toc H Services Club in the one-horse township of Sesana. Here the British and Yugoslav forces faced each other across a disputed territory and the tension was such that any trigger-happy soldier involved in some small border incident could easily have sparked-off something far more serious.

Strict orders were issued that only our own soldiers were to be allowed on the Toc H Club premises, but Jock interpreting the order in his usual fashion had tables and chairs placed *in the garden* and relayed concerts of classical records to his friends, the predominantly Slav townsfolk. One would not be altogether surprised if it also happened that the concerts included coffee and cakes passed through the open windows. Jock's love and understanding of children was also much in evidence and once, in a difficult situation, his warm-hearted friendliness stood him in good stead.

The line denoting the territories occupied by the British and Yugoslav forces was vague and arbitrary, to say the least. Looked at on the map, Zones 'A' and 'B' might have appeared to be reasonably clear-cut, but in reality in that wild, mountainous country, it was often extremely difficult to decide where one ended and the other began. Should a British soldier inadvertently wander over the mostly invisible line, as like as not, he would be held by the Yugoslavs and carted off to Belgrade for a fortnight before being returned to his unit. This actually happened a number of times while a very famous British regiment was on duty at Sesana, and its C.O. issued a stern warning that the next time a man transgressed he could expect to be severely dealt with upon his return to the regiment. Three days later, the C.O., the Adjutant and a Subaltern themselves wandered unwittingly into Zone 'B' and together shared the doubtful pleasures of a fortnight's visit to Belgrade.

Some days after this happening, 'Jock' Brown visiting the forward positions in his mobile van, overshot the turning and all unaware drove well into the Yugoslav Zone. Seen by Slav villagers, their agitated shouts of "Jock! Jock! Zona B" gave him time enough to back his vehicle, to step on the accelerator and return safely to our own lines without further incident.



Sesana : At the barrier of one of the few clearly defined check-points between the British and Yugoslav Zones.

A few months later our troops in this sector were replaced by an American Division, the 'Blue Devils', and our own contact with the Yugoslavs ended. Demobilisation was now speeded up and, with the reduction of the British forces, the work of Toc H Services Clubs in Italy had correspondingly lessened so that by the mid-summer of 1947 we were able to haul down the flag and ourselves pull-out.

Once back in Britain, we found that there was quite a lot to be done towards getting adjusted to the changed post-war conditions and that 'peace' had brought its own particular problems. From the scanty items of news that seeped through to us it seemed that the Yugoslavs were also having a thin time. At first it appeared that their country had become inextricably bound up with the USSR, but domination by Soviet Russia proved unpalatable to these independent people, and in 1948 the whole world learnt that a serious rift had occurred. War-ravaged and impoverished their country might be, but the Yugoslavs had their own plans for recovery and were not going to permit themselves to be pushed around by anyone. Obstinate, touchy and defiant, they thumbed an indelicate nose at the mighty USSR, and—for good measure—in the direction of the USA and ourselves as well.

From time to time came a reminder that there was considerably more to Yugoslavia than poverty and politics. An exhibition of medieval frescoes from Yugoslav monasteries put on at the Tate Gallery in 1953 (we were able to reproduce one of them in the December JOURNAL) opened many eyes to the richness of their heritage. How much better to see such things in their proper setting (the murals were only skilful copies) but at that time the 1,000 miles stretching between London and the Yugoslav frontier seemed an unsurmountable barrier, forcing one to rest content with a handful of war-time memories together with some second-hand impressions of the places that they called 'home'.

2. Places

I could scarcely believe it had happened; that I really was seated in the *Tauern Express*; that away to the left those brooding mountain peaks were the Julian Alps and that in a few more minutes we should have well and truly crossed the Yugoslav frontier. This, indeed, was a slice of unlooked-for luck. In recounting, I wish I could tell of a series of reunions with war-time Yugoslav friends. But being true to life it didn't quite work out that way and, although I failed to renew earlier contacts, I did meet up with some who were undoubtedly close counterparts of those I had known earlier.

Of course, there is no such person as a typical Yugoslav. How could there possibly be in a country which embraces six republics, five nations, four languages, three religions, and two alphabets and has been a storm centre and melting pot between Europe and Asia throughout the centuries? But despite all this distracting diversity there also runs through Serb and Croat alike a strong unifying strand of independence, so much so, that even hotel staff will not hesitate to tell you that they are not servants, but 'co-operators'!

It was now time to board the good ship *Partizanka* for the run down the Dalmatian coast. My fellow passengers proved to be a very mixed lot; crowds of peasant folk bulging with untidy parcels, white-clad sailors going home on leave, young Yugoslav students on vacation, most of them wearing today's universal jeans, together with some camera-strung and gadget-laden German tourists. The peasants soon settled themselves to the task of eating their way stolidly through large packages

of food; the Germans clicked their cameras almost in unison at every feature of the landscape, while the students, quite uninhibited, sang and danced to guitar and accordion on every available part of the deck, and continued to do so without any noticeable let-up throughout the day. There was also a grey-clad, armed policeman, but I never discovered whether he was on ship's duty, or merely a fellow passenger like the rest of us.

The ship ploughed a steady course between a coastline of steep, grey mountains, honeycombed with caves once the



... the students danced on every available part of the deck. . . .

haunts of pirates, and the many islands and islets—nearly a thousand of them—which fringe the Dalmatian coast. Some of these are quite small, occupied by only a handful of fishermen and their families; but there are about forty larger ones with sizeable villages and small towns whose histories reach back to the Phoenicians and beyond. Here came the Greeks, to be followed by the Romans and, after Rome had fallen, fierce Southern Slav clansmen took over. After them came a Turkish occupation that lasted fully 300 years, to be followed in turn by Venetian rule until the Napoleonic wars, when the

islands came under French rule. In the early years of the 19th century, the British Navy took a hand in governing them until, in 1815, they were handed over to Austria. At the end of World War I they formed part of Italy's war booty and so remained until 1946 when they became an integral part of modern Yugoslavia.

The end of the day's run brought us to Split, half-way between Rijeka and Dubrovnik. The life of this lively and prosperous city centres round the huge remains of the palace planned by Diocletian, 1,800 years ago. This remarkable

man, the son of Dalmatian slave parents, after a brilliant army career, became Emperor of Rome at the age of forty. Twenty years later, still at the height of his powers, he abdicated and built this enormous residence for his retirement. In the centre stands his mausoleum which in the 7th century became a Christian church and now serves as the cathedral. It is amazing that so much of the palace should have survived so many turbulent centuries and when I said as much to my companion, a young Yugoslav student of economics, his only comment

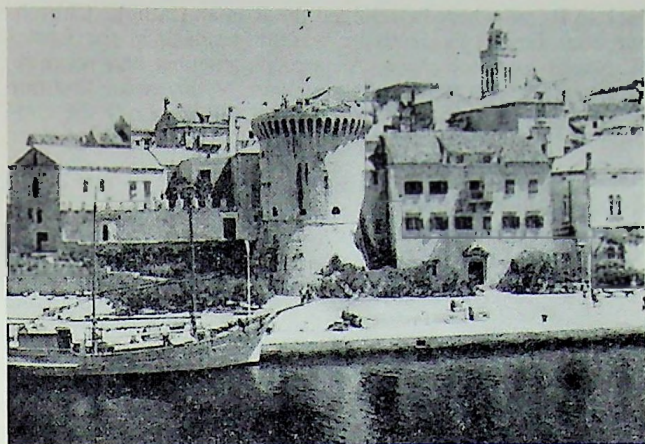
was "Yes, but have you seen our new cement factory?"

On going out into the main square after dinner that evening, I found it completely occupied by small groups of people, walking and talking together: the buzz of animated conversations sounding just like a congress of starlings. Enquiring if something unusual was afoot, an amused 'local' told me that this congregating was a normal nightly custom and takes place every evening in most Yugoslav towns. It was noticeable that the policemen on duty, taking their full share in the talking groups, seemed on particularly good terms with everybody.



Split: The old harbour and wall of Diocletian's palace with the campanile of his mausoleum.

The following morning, walking by the southern wall of the Palace, I encountered a familiar yet unexpected sight. Looking more than a little shabby and in need of paint, was an undoubted London bus with 'Trogir' on its destination board. (I learnt later that London Transport had done a deal by selling some of their old vehicles to the Yugoslav Government.) As Trogir was one of the places I wanted to see this seemed a good opportunity, and I boarded the bus in company with a band of happy-go-lucky students, who enlivened the journey with operatic selections which seemed to me of an



* . . the massive round towers of the ancient fortifications of Korcula. . . *

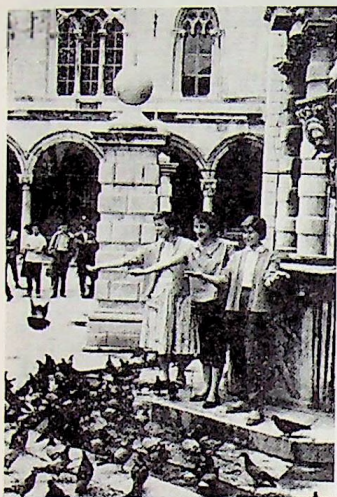
especially high order. Maybe there is something in the acoustic qualities of a bus-top that produces this effect, or else it was the sunshine and the student's high spirits that made it seem so.

The ancient island city of Trogir is joined to the mainland by a small wooden bridge. Its lovely old buildings speak of a long Venetian occupation and could well pass muster as parts of Venice itself. It was here that I encountered four white-coifed nuns and, with an outstanding picture in mind, stalked them stealthily, with camera at the ready. But never for an instant did they slacken their brisk pace and having completely traversed the island returned once more to the mainland, leaving me puzzled as to the purpose of their journey.

It was here, too, that I first heard of the 17th century Archbishop of the see, Marc Antonio de Dominus, who attempted to reunite the two principal Christian creeds of Western Europe, the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox Churches. His early efforts were viewed with favour by the Vatican but when he began to dispute the infallibility of the Pope, he was forced to vacate his see and fled to Venice. Here the chaplain to the British Ambassador persuaded him to go to London, where he joined the Church of England and James I appointed him Dean of Windsor, giving him the living of West Ilsley, in Berkshire. Some years later, Pope Gregory XV invited him

back to Rome where he rejoined the Roman Catholic Church, but after Gregory's death he was imprisoned in the Castel St. Angelo and died there. A noted philosopher and scientist, he discovered the theory of the colours of the prism, and our own Newton praised his work and did full justice to the conclusions obtained from his experiments.

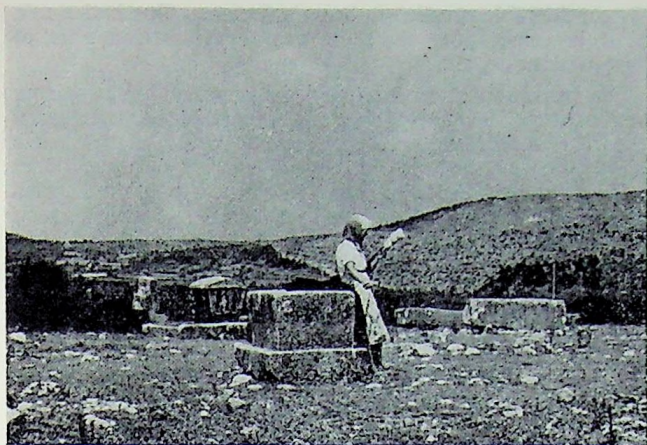
Re-embarked on the steamer soon after dawn, a few hours sailing brought us alongside the massive round towers of the ancient fortifications of Korcula, one of the larger islands.



Dubrovnik: Klara Sabo and her companions feeding the pigeons.

Here it seemed that the entire population had taken time off to be on the jetty to share in the bustle and excitement of stores and supplies being unloaded and returning travellers reunited to the families. I saw an elderly priest absorbed in a newspaper that our boat had brought, completely oblivious to the hubbub going on all around him. Once the scene of a terrific naval battle, Korcula was also the birthplace of Marco Polo, whose tales of travels across Asia and Mongolia and into China, although dismissed as fantasies during his lifetime, were subsequently proved to be well-founded.

The first impression of Dubrovnik was a disappointing one, for the steamer docked in a modern harbour well to the west of the city. It was not until the following morning that I was able to see the weathered beauty of the ancient town that only centuries can give. Looking down on its pink and red rooftops from the high battlemented walls completely encircling them, one sees "A rose-red city half as old as time", while just off the shore, set in the bluest of seas, is the Island of Lokrum where Richard Coeur de Lion was shipwrecked on his way home from crusading.



... a peasant woman plying her distaff at the Bogomil cemetery, near Mostar. ...

A Free republic for a thousand years, Dubrovnik's earlier name was Ragusa, which has given us the word 'argosy'. It was one of the greatest ports in the then known world, with a fleet of as many as 2,000 ships. As early as 1347, Ragusa possessed a Home for the Aged and abolished its slave trade in 1416—more than four centuries before many of the more 'advanced' western nations. It was here, too, that Europe's first hospice for homeless children was opened in 1432 and its Franciscan chemists shop, still functioning today, dates back to 1318.

Early in the morning, Dubrovnik's main street, the *Placa*, is thronged with peasant women bringing their produce to market in great rush baskets balanced on their heads. Theirs is a hard life with little ease and it is evident that their daughters are disinclined to follow in mum's footsteps. I talked, if that is the right word, with Klara Sabo and her two companions, sixteen-year old students whom I met feeding the pigeons. Despite language difficulties, we got along splendidly, and bright, intelligent youngsters they were.

I also talked with a bemedalled fireman on duty at the ancient Rector's Palace. A volunteer, he had served as a fireman for fully twenty-four years—except for the time when he toted a sten-gun with the Partisans. He explained that there

was considerable prestige in being a fireman. One had a role in all the celebrations and there was always a waiting list of those wishing to join.

The provinces of Bosnia-Herzegovina differ greatly from the Adriatic coast. The domes and slender minarets scattered across the landscape, and the everyday dress of the people combine to give them an Eastern atmosphere—a legacy from Turkish rule. Mostar, the principal town, is entirely Turkish in appearance with its mainly wooden houses clustered round an incredibly beautiful bridge that spans the river like a drawn bow. Muslim craftsmen, at work in their tiny open-fronted shops, caught my attention and I watched a tinsmith, seated cross-legged like a tailor, as he skilfully fashioned new articles from discarded metal containers. Shyly he produced a photograph of himself in football kit, and turned out to be a local celebrity—the centre forward of the Mostar team—for football ranks almost as a religion throughout Yugoslavia and its supporters are often knowledgeable about the Arsenal, the Spurs and other British teams as well.

On the way from Mostar to Sarajevo, we came across a strange, sprawling cemetery of gigantic sculptured tombs amidst *kars* strewn fields, on one of which leaned a peasant woman, rhythmically plying her distaff. These were tombs of the Bogomils, a bygone heretical sect whose beliefs are wrapped in considerable mystery, save that they incurred the active enmity of both the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches. Roman in their simplicity and pagan in their carvings, the lonely tombs stand as memorials to a people remembered today only as the begetters of a familiar but unprintable word.

It was through a pistol shot, fired nearly fifty years ago, that the then almost unknown name of Sarajevo came into prominence with an event that was to set the whole world ablaze. Today, the town presents an unusual mixture of East and West, with industrial expansion in the suburbs, outflanking the ancient oriental city. The bridge where the Archduke was assassinated was much smaller than I had pictured it, and just on the corner are two human footprints, embedded in the pavement, at the spot where Gavrilo Princip stood to fire his fatal shots. In the older part it is hard to realise that one is still in Europe for the *souks*, a maze of narrow alleys with their seedy, coloured crowds in fez and baggy breeches, are more than a little reminiscent of a North African *kashbah*.



Mostar: 'An incredibly beautiful bridge spans the river like a drawn bow.'

Mosques and minarets abound, topped by the 16th century one of Begova Džamija, built by Husref-Beg, the Turkish Governor of Bosnia. It was here they proudly displayed a carpet presented by Colonel Nasser during his visit to Yugoslavia. It is not easy for a casual visitor to tell how far this ancient way of life can be made to fit in with an expanding industrial outlook, but change is going on all the time and I should not be surprised if, within a few years, much of today's scene becomes altered beyond recognition.

The night train from Sarajevo carried me to Bled, still within Yugoslavia but markedly different to all that had gone before. Gone now were the mosques and minarets and in their place was more than a suggestion for an operatic setting; the small island church mirrored in the lake's still waters, with a stately castle set on the summit of a steep cliff, and the massive Julian Alps for back-cloth. Well into our own time this place was a playground for the wealthy of half Europe. Now their lakeside villas have been transformed into holiday centres and convalescent homes for town workers and youth organisations. Coming from other parts, they are as much strangers here as any tourist; but I like to think that some of those I saw in this final glimpse of Yugoslavia might well be sons and daughters of those sturdy war-time friends we once knew.

MULTUM IN PARVO

much in little



☛ The BIRTHDAY HONOURS included: Sir ALEXANDER COUTANCHE, Bailiff of Jersey, Baron; CYRIL OSBORNE, M.P., Knight; Brigadier DONALD CLELAND, Administrator of Papua and New Guinea, Knight; FRANK GILLARD, C.B.E.; R. E. PETERS (Bombay), O.B.E.

☛ S. GEORGE H. DAVIS has been elected chairman of the Central Executive for 1961-62, and R. J. R. (Jack) TREFUSIS vice-chairman.

☛ The Rev. E. BENTLEY EDWARDS, Minister of Malindela Baptist Church, Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, has been appointed to be a full-time Padre of Toc H in South Africa from July.

☛ NOEL J. CARTWRIGHT has been obliged by pressure of other work to resign from being Hon. Area Correspondent in the West Midlands after four years. Letters to the Area Secretary, G. R. Purdy, 56 Chester Road South, Kidderminster, Worcs.

☛ Toc H and BELRA Garden Party at The Holme, Regent's Park, London, from 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 22.

☛ For HOLIDAY WEEKS for families at Groton Old Hall in Suffolk from August 12 to September 9, apply to 'Fergie' at Toc H, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

☛ The WESTERN AREA CENTRE at Bristol will be opened by TUBBY on September 16.

☛ The BEDS. AND HERTS. Rally at St. Albans on September 23.

☛ The FOUR SHIRES RALLY at Oldham, Lancs., on Saturday, September 30; also the YORKSHIRE Conference at Scarborough and the SOUTH WESTERN Conference at Westward Ho!

☛ THE FAMILY PURSE: Will all Treasurers and Members please note that the income for the half-year fell short of the expenditure by £10,000. There is no need to say what must be done. It needs to be done quickly and well before October 31.

☛ ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛

NEXT YEAR : : JUNE 16-17, 1962

THE TOC H FESTIVAL IN LONDON

☛ ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛



OPEN HUSTINGS

readers' letters



The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H and asks that they be written briefly and to the point. Effort is made to include a representative selection, and they are printed as individual view-points, not necessarily those of the Movement as a whole.

Recruitment

THERE has been a lot of talk in Toc H lately about the difficulties of recruiting new members, but so far no real solutions have emerged.

The reason for this may be—and this is purely a personal view—that many of us are looking at the problem from the wrong end. We think in terms of our own Branch and try to extend our activities, keeping the unit as the centre of our efforts. Two results follow: we persuade one or two men to join our ranks before they have decided what Toc H means to them, and we strain our limited resources in trying to undertake extra jobs in the vain hope that this will attract new members.

Consider the problem from a different angle. There are two Student Toc H Circles in existence—at Bristol and at Exeter. These operate on the simple basis of presenting to the students two fundamental principles of Toc H—Fellowship and Service. These and nothing more! Thus fostered by Toc H, the groups have been enthusiastically supported by a good number of students. Why? Because they have offered something unique, linking men and women together in a fellowship of service to the

community which admits no barriers of religion, race or class.

Some may feel that this is not Toc H at all. In some senses, it is not—there is no Ceremony of Light, no Homegoing Prayers, no definitive Christian basis, and none of the other details peculiar to Toc H Branches. Yet several students from these Circles have already joined the Movement as Branch or General Members. And even if the majority leave university and forget all about Toc H, surely this is immaterial when the problem is put in a decent perspective.

Throughout its history Toc H can look with pride not only on its own achievements but also on the good things it has fostered and then passed over to others to carry on. "Unselfish Service" may mean handing over our favourite job to another local group, not connected with Toc H. On the face of it we seem to lose; in reality we do nothing of the kind.

The time has surely come to reconsider problems of recruitment in this light. If we can get non-Members to join us in our service, we shall have achieved two great things: the sense of social responsibility, so precious in the world today, will have been extended to others; and,

if our own Lamp is burning brightly, we shall, by God's Grace, eventually get our new members. How much more effective to present youth clubs, colleges, schools, and other groups of people outside Toc H with a challenge to serve freely than with an invitation to join an already close-knit Branch.

Many will disagree with all this. I only hope it will provoke some practical discussion and action.

DAVID PRESHOUS.

Bristol, 6.

Inskip League

I WONDER how many Toc H members are acquainted with the organisation known as the Inskip League of Friendship for the Disabled. To give a detailed explanation of the good work done in connection with this organisation would take far more space than is available here. There are quite a number of branches in various parts of the country, but unfortunately not in every town. A new one, however, is now in existence in Andover and all credit for this goes to Andover Branch of Toc H which not only sponsored its inception but, with some assistance from other local bodies, did a considerable amount of the work its formation entailed. The first reaction to the suggestion of forming a branch gave rise to doubts as to whether there was a large enough number of disabled people in Andover, but results have now proved how right our Toc H friends were.

To date the membership total is sixty-seven in varying degrees of disability, but all are very grateful for what is being done towards relieving the burden of monotony which is ever present in the life of a disabled person.

As chairman of the Southern

Regional Committee of 'Inskip' I can assure members of Toc H who think there is need of a branch in their district they would feel amply rewarded by the amount of appreciation shown by the disabled, in the formation of such a branch. Once a branch is functioning it is usually run by the members themselves, having at their disposal the assistance of able-bodied or 'associate' members if required.

R. G. ADAMS,

North Baddesley, Branch Pilot.
8, Six Oaks Road,
North Baddesley,
Hants.

Ceremony of Light

THE FOUR lines of Laurence Binyon are an 'introduction' to the heart of the matter—the *moment's silence*—of recollection—whether that recollection be of those who have gone before, or in the wider context of Christ as the Light of the World. Is there any reason therefore, why there should not be one, or even more, alternative 'words of introduction' to the moment's silence and the challenge? Or even just the omission of the four lines? The member taking Light would be free to choose the Binyon words or one of the alternatives.

Respect must be paid to the feelings of elderly members to whom the Laurence Binyon words have become dear. Respect must also be paid to the feelings of younger, thoughtful people to whom they are a hindrance. Above all, respect must be paid to the image we are presenting to the world. Is it to be an image of quaint little groups of elderly people looking to the past, or an image of a vigorous Movement of people of all ages working to "bring light to those places where there is still darkness, and peace

to those places where there is still bitterness"? Permissive alternatives would meet all the above considerations.

Unless one or two alternatives are tried out, *wisely and with preparation*, it will never be possible to know how they will sound or be received.

RUBY RELF.

Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

SO MANY opinions have been expressed in the JOURNAL regarding the Ceremony of Light that one might expect the topic to be exhausted.

But now, with the publication of the New Bible Translation, a further aspect deserves consideration.

I refer to the closing words of 'Light', as quoted from St. Matthew's Gospel. The new translation is particularly appropriate to Toc H, the words being:

And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellows, so that, when they see the good you do, they may give praise to your Father in heaven.

We discussed this recently at Camberwell Branch, and decided that when a member takes 'Light' he may use which version he prefers.

BEN MOAKES.

Camberwell.

IN OUR regular observance of this ceremony are we clinging to an outworn tradition or ritual, couched in words that have little meaning to the younger generation whom we hope to recruit into our Movement? Should we drop it altogether or observe it only occasionally? Or is there, on the other hand, something about 'Light' that is fundamental to Toc H, necessitating the Ceremony being an integral part of every Toc H meeting.

I am a comparative newcomer to Toc H so tradition does not

weigh heavily with me, but from what I have learned of the Movement, I am convinced that 'Light' is fundamentally in the spirit and purpose of the Movement, and therefore should remain an integral part of every Toc H meeting. Its discontinuance would impoverish our meetings.

'Light' is part of Toc H and the ceremony part of our meeting; but are we making the best possible use of this Ceremony and using the most appropriate words? Those of us whose memories go back to the days of the first World War and the years immediately following will always treasure Binyon's *For the Fallen* but are they the best or most appropriate words for our ceremony. The fact that they belong to a previous generation is not the main issue. Many quotations from the past are still very relevant today. The main question is are they applicable to and adequately helpful in achieving the purpose of the ceremony.

There are three other points that have concerned me very much over the past few months.

Firstly, being fallible human beings, prone to forgetfulness and failing, we do need to be constantly reminded of what we are in Toc H for, what is its purpose, what we are pledged to do and be.

Secondly, we are pledged to seek to know the Will of God and do it. Is there any part of our meeting in which we consciously do this?

Thirdly, Toc H believes in the spiritual interpretation of life and the Christian way of living. Very often the only expressions of this fact in our meetings are Home-going Prayers and the Ceremony of Light; and I do not consider the Ceremony in its present form adequately expresses this fundamental principle of Toc H.

R. TURNER.

Clacton-on-Sea.

The Elder Brethren

ASHMAN.—On April 23, GILBERT EDWIN ASHMAN, aged 83, a member of Rainham Branch. Elected 3.4.'48.

BRIGGS.—On April 18, WILLIAM JOHN BRIGGS, aged 88, a member of Hornchurch Branch. Elected 1.12.'33.

BUTCHER.—On April 26, E. RICHARD BUTCHER, aged 48, a member of Stockport Branch. Elected 22.10.'36.

COX.—On May 10, ARTHUR STEPHEN COX, aged 69, a member of Blackburn Branch. Elected 18.11.'58.

CRISP.—On April 28, ARTHUR GEORGE CRISP, aged 69, a member of Muswell Hill Branch. Elected 10.9.'58.

DICKENS.—On May 8, JOHN HAROLD DICKENS, aged 58, a member of Newsome Branch. Elected 24.5.'60.

DRENNAN.—On May 15, JAMES DRENNAN, aged 90, a member of Hollywood Branch. Elected 20.11.'47.

HASKINS.—On April 30, MAURICE KERR HASKINS, aged 42, a member of Wroughton Branch. Elected 30.9.'39.

KING.—On May 22, CYRIL DAVID KING, aged 52, a member of West Pinchbeck Branch. Elected 4.10.'53.

LEECH.—On May 5, FRANCIS HENRY POPE LEECH, aged 65, a member of Packington Branch. Elected 8.10.'56.

LYNE.—On May 8, STEPHEN WALTER LYNE, aged 66, a member of Exmouth Branch. Elected February, 1950.

NURTON.—On April 18, ALBERT NURTON, aged 61, a founder member of Llanllwch Branch. Elected 10.2.'47.

PAYNE.—On May 2, in retirement at Happisburgh Monastery, Norfolk, Canon FRANCIS REGINALD CHESSEREAU PAYNE, O.B.E., aged 84, a former member of Market Bosworth Branch. Elected 9.5.'47.

RAWCLIFFE.—On May 2, HARRY RAWCLIFFE, aged 61, a founder member of Clitheroe Branch. Elected 14.1.'38.

SHEPPHARD.—On April 19, in a road accident, HERBERT SHEPPHARD, aged 83, a member of Dalton-in-Furness Branch. Elected 9.4.'47.

SMITH.—On April 29, THOMAS STANLEY SMITH, aged 55, a founder member of Hinckley Branch. Elected 6.5.'44.

STANTON.—On April 30, WILLIAM STANTON, aged 72, a member of Calstock Branch. Elected 3.8.'56.

STENT.—On March 20, HERBERT C. STENT, aged 68, a founder member of Ashford Branch. Elected 30.3.'31.


TAYLOR.—On April 27, Canon THOMAS WHITEHEAD TAYLOR, aged 73, a member of Rochdale Branch. Elected 14.10.'30.

THOMPSON.—On May 7, ROBERT GEORGE THOMPSON, aged 65, a member of Hornchurch Branch. Elected 16.10.'35.

WEBB.—On May 21, the Rev. PAUL W. WEBB, M.B.E., aged 60, a former Staff Padre, Notts. & Derby Area, and Commissioner Toc H Services Clubs, B.A.O.R., 1944-51. Elected India Executive, 1936.

WILSON.—On May 25, after a long illness, the Rev. HUGH McDOWALL WILSON, aged 67, a member of Beckley Branch. Elected Rangoon Branch 1924.

WORCESTER.—On April 20, ALLAN D. WORCESTER, aged 75, a founder member of Warlingham Branch. Elected 31.7.'26.



FROM ALL PARTS direct from areas

N. LONDON

from Mayne Elson

The date of the Annual Garden Party held by MILL HILL Branch was changed this year to Whit Monday and the experiment was highly successful. Encouraged by an unusually warm afternoon, at least 5,000 people enjoyed the fun in the lovely grounds of Belmont School. Queueing was the order of the day at the side-shows and stalls and the members in charge of them were working flat out from beginning to end of the party. The 'set pieces' included a fascinating demonstration of Police Dog Handling by a team of handlers and dogs from Manchester. Amongst the guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Hendon, Alderman and Mrs. L. A. Hills, and George Davis, the Chairman of the Toc H Central Executive. The proceeds, which go to keep up the film unit run by the Branch and to the Family Purse, exceeded £500.

EAST MIDLANDS

from Geoffrey Whittaker
and Percy Brooks

Working on the knowledge that all homes have unwanted goods in them LONG CLAWSON Branch have held their fifth annual Toc H Market Day and realised a record profit of £130. This makes the total raised by this means approximately £450. During the three weeks prior to the day of the sale, every house in the village is canvassed first by circular letter and then by collection teams. The village hall is packed with furniture, wireless and television sets, clothing, foodstuffs, in short, with anything that is given to us. Where goods cannot be given outright, we make the sale and retain a percentage for our trouble. The free services of a local auctioneer are given and crowds assemble from miles around to pick up the bargains offered. This annual event is now eagerly awaited and, apart from the satisfactory financial reward, serves to take Toc H into every home in the village. The local village magazine, published by the Branch, was 'in the red' so to remedy this it was agreed to try Bingo sessions, which have been very profitable. The debt was quickly cleared and now profits from the fortnightly sessions are going towards a children's playground and other village amenities.

Nearly 4,000 people visited SOAR VALLEY District's sixteenth annual gala at Loughborough on Saturday, May 13. Encouraged by a 'pocket heatwave' they came to sample the many and varied attractions which included a Baby Show, six-a-side soccer knock-out competition, children's fancy dress competition, skittles, and children's fair and donkey rides. One of the highlights was the 500 colourfully dressed performers marching around the large arena in the popular carnival bands contest.

BEDS. & HERTS.

from Ray Fables

From the shores of Lake Victoria, via devious routes, to the Lands of Beds. and Herts. came a young man by the name of 'Pi', and to what must have looked to him a very frightening tour. For three hectic weeks we were privileged to have Pineate Mulumba-Musoke with us, and many friendships have been formed between him and us.

In Toc H fields he moved from the start of a new group, to a weekend at Dor Knap with fellows from Chippenham District in the Western Area. Calls then took us to an International Club and homes and Branches in Watford and Bedford. A Youth Club and a quiet Training evening in Stevenage, also cricket, both first-class and humble village, was viewed in his training programme; necessary stuff this! The Cheshire Home at Ampthill Park, to Dunstable and Biggleswade he travelled to Leighton Buzzard and they all saw the happy smiling face of our friend—the Toc H Field Assistant from Uganda.

He heard and saw much of various gatherings of men and the insides of many different homes—almost a different one every night. He also made several friends among the younger people in the village setting of Marston-Morteyne in the Bedfordshire brickfields. We pray that he may take home to Uganda something constructive from all that he has seen and shared. We, in our turn, have learnt a great deal and were glad to share his delightful company; never again will Toc H in Uganda seem such a long way away when we remember his stay with us.

NOTTS. & DERBY

from Les Wheatley

Hopes of a fine day for a procession to start off the Area Festival at BAKEWELL were dashed when heavy April showers delayed their departure until May 6. Despite the rain, hundreds streamed up the hill to pack the lovely old Parish Church to take part in the Service conducted by Bishop George Sinker and Padre Dick Craig, and to listen without a stir to Tubby in the pulpit. Down to the Town Hall to scramble for tea before the Festival Evening. A welcome by Miss Mellor, Chairman of the U.D.C., introduced by Col. Tony Wharton, Area Chairman, preceded a Roman welcome. (You could tell he was a Roman because he had a toga on; without it he turned out to be Les Burt.) He welcomed Geoff. Martin and 'Pi' Mulumba-Musoke in verse, before community singing shattered Bakewell's evening peace. An Anthology of Courage and Hope, devised by Harry Sharpe and dramatically presented by members from EREWASH District, led up to Light, with Lamps and Banners surrounding the Bakewell Lamp. After Light came the practical—an intensely moving account of the T.B. Settlement at Botha's Hill told by its founder, Don McKenzie.

Meantime, elsewhere in the Town Hall children were being entertained to a film show manned by members of WORKSOP Branch. Their heroic qualities were displayed when films ran out before the Festival Evening upstairs ended! Family prayers led by Tubby ended a Festival packed with good things and packed too with numbers—the church was full, the Town Hall very much overfull—helping to create an event long to be remembered.

Some ten days prior to the Festival we had a welcome visit from

John Calli who met Branch officers at three centres in the Area to continue the development of a training programme for officers begun last autumn. Among the more local happenings, MANSFIELD, WOODHOUSE, GRAEME and BINGHAM Branches have held Rededication Services. George Lee from Lincolnshire Area was guest speaker at the last two gatherings. At CASTLE DONINGTON four members and two Builders were all candidates at the recent local elections. A working party, comprised of local schoolboys, WEST BRIDGFORD members and the Area Secretary, answered an urgent call for help to lay and roll hardcore on the terrace of the recently opened Cheshire Home at West Bridgford.

SCOTLAND

from Reg Stewart

The Scottish Council was again held at Carronvale on May 13-14, the Guest Speaker being the Rev. L. S. Rivett, Area Padre East Yorkshire, who took as his theme "Toc H—Christian or Christianising". The Council was well attended this year, there being thirty-three members attending for the full period and a maximum number of approximately seventy, representing some twenty Branches, present for the Sunday session. Alan Hill, Marks Pilot from Newcastle, also attended and provided stimulating contributions to the general discussion. A feature of this year's Council was the preparation and prior circularisation to all Branches of detailed Reports from the Chairman, the Hon. Treasurer, and the Area Secretary, these Reports then forming subjects for discussion by the 'Clans' during the course of the Conference. Donald Macintosh gave a report on the Central Council and in addition to the written reports, Harry Woolaston, Convener of the Extension Sub-Committee, Padre Watson, Hon. Area Padre and Bill McMurdo on behalf of the Area Joint Advisory Council also informed the Council of their various activities throughout the year.

STONEHOUSE Branch made a useful contribution to the occasion by showing the Dor Knap Filmstrip with its tape-recorded commentary and also showed their own film on "Dunavon", an Institution for under-privileged children. The Clan discussions, firstly on the submitted Reports and then on prepared questions arising from Len Rivett's talk were productive of several ideas, including some fresh and original thinking and despite the absence of some of our well-known "high heided yins" Carronvale, this year, was voted an enjoyable, interesting and useful purpose. Len's talk was tape-recorded by DUNFERMLINE Branch for circulating to Branches for the benefit of those members who were unable to be present.

DUNDEE Branch, following a severe set-back to their Hospital Commentary project by the loss of the use of Largs Studio, Dundee, have rallied in a magnificent manner to find themselves alternative accommodation. Dundee Corporation having placed former shop premises in the centre of the town at their disposal and helped by numerous local firms and a young team of enthusiasts who have been up till now helping to run the Radio Programmes for the Hospitals, the Branch are to open their new rooms at the end of this month and can now look forward to rendering even better service to the local hospitals through their Hospitals' Radio Service, under the indefatigable Jim McClure. The response from the local people in Dundee to this venture has been almost staggering and it is indicative of the high

regard in which Toc H is held that the official opening of the new premises is to be conducted by the Lord Provost supported by a number of local prominent personalities.



Paisley Daily Express

Members and guests at Paisley Branch's thirtieth birthday celebration.

After several months of effort in the Glasgow Area the RENFREWSHIRE District Team have decided to hold their meetings in the western sector of Glasgow in the hope that they will be able to form a group of interested persons who will eventually form a new Glasgow Branch. Two successful meetings have so far been held and a third meeting is to take place in the near future.

Towards the end of April we had an interesting visitor to Scotland in Pincate Mulumba-Musoke, Field Assistant, Uganda, who was able to see something of Branch life and to take part in a quiz organised by LADHOPE Branch and also to see a little of scenic Scotland. We wish him all possible success in his very difficult mission in Africa but having met him personally we feel assured that he has the right stuff in him and that in a rapidly changing Africa it is men like him who can contribute a tremendous amount of good to their fellow Africans in the way of real Christian fellowship and service.

On Saturday, May 6, a party of elderly and disabled people from Edinburgh were taken on a forty-mile drive through the Clackmannanshire countryside to Tillicoultry. The outing was arranged by a joint committee of members of EDINBURGH Branch and the W.A. Branch in conjunction with TILlicoultry Branch, and the guests included residents of Glenlockhart House and Queensberry House, and others who are usually housebound. Transport was provided by car owners from both Branches, together with the help of generous friends, and other members joined the party to assist the old folk at each end of the journey. On arrival at Tillicoultry Branch's meeting room the party was welcomed by John Stalker, the chairman, and entertained to tea followed by an excellent concert of music, stories and songs, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

MANCHESTER

from Rob Knight

Marksman from MARK IV and MARK XIV built two outdoor exhibitions to publicise Christian Aid Week. In Piccadilly, Manchester, alongside a typical pavement dwelling in Calcutta there was erected a Deathometer recording the incidence of death from T.B. and malnutrition. Together the two exhibitions produced over £200 as well as supporting the rest of the work of the Christian Aid Week Committee of the Council of Churches.

STOCKPORT District, continuing the new approach of looking for opportunities to help the Youth Service, spent a very profitable evening with the Youth officer of the local authority at their last District Team.

CLITHEROE Branch's sign was made for them by a joiner before the war. Leonard Oddie is now the Branch Secretary of Brussels and on a visit to the United Kingdom in May came back to Clitheroe and told them about Toc H in Belgium. They had a grand night and a bond of friendship has been forged between the two Branches.



Cullumpton Branch receiving its Lamp from Peter Danmers.

SOUTH WESTERN

from Gilbert Francis

The end of May saw the culmination of the latest job of service by LISKEARD Branch, with the official opening of the Telephone Trolley Service at Liskeard Hospital. Conceived and planned over the last few months, the scheme provides for a trolley-mounted telephone capable of being moved from bed to bed and from ward to ward as required for patients to either make or receive calls. That a need has been filled is evident from the welcome given to the service, and, manned by members and friends of the Branch, it will doubtless continue to be appreciated far into the future. The Branch in EXETER have been invited to assume responsibility for the staffing of a similar service in one of the Exeter hospitals. This is very much a 'combined operation' between both sides of the Family, and is giving many opportunities for making contact with people and widening an already large circle of friends.

NORTHERN

from Charles Young

A joint effort by **GUISBOROUGH** Branch and the **W.A. Branch** raised £16 for the Congo Appeal Save the Children Fund. **DARLINGTON** Branch is now represented on the Committee of the Aged People's Welfare Council, and members of **ASHINGTON** Branch are on the town rota of visitors to old folk. **CARLIN** How Branch held a competition for the best decorated paste eggs which, with other gifts, were later taken to Brotton Hospital.

Greetings and welcome to the new joint group at Marske-by-Sea (Yorks.). Names of any friends or likely contacts should be sent to the Secretary, Mrs. Betty Moody, 18 Bydales Drive, Marske-by-Sea. At Mark XVIII the Marksmen, together with Newcastle-upon-Tyne Branch and Mrs. Denham the housekeeper, were the audience, hosts and questioners at a political forum. The Forum was Councillor Mrs. Margaret Collins (Labour), Mr. William McKeag (Liberal) and Mr. Fergus Montgomery, M.P. **REDCAR** Branch and the **W.A. Branch** have already acted as hosts to several parties of handicapped children and adults who enjoy and benefit by a day at the sea. The parties are organised by Branches in the Area and also from other Areas.

EASTERN LONDON

from Jim Green

For the third year in succession **CANVEY ISLAND** Branch have held a "Christian Forum" for the people of their locality and it continues to prove a successful and popular event. The panel consists of the local clergy and ministers—Anglican, Methodist, Baptist and Salvation Army—and the Chairman this year was a Congregationalist doctor. About eighty members of the public attended, many of them churchgoers, some of the unattached to any place of worship. Written questions are handed to the Chairman from the floor and the panel discusses and answers them.

LAKELAND

from Joe Wills

LONGTOWN took the initiative in the town in raising about two hundred pounds for Congo Relief and **PENRITH** also raised a considerable sum for the same appeal at very short notice. **GRETNA** continued their annual party for old people, and **CARLISLE** are developing connections with the Army Apprentices' School both there and in their homes. **APPLEBY** pioneered the discussion of the Albemarle Report in the town, with the result that the Branch is now involved in a new club for young people. In **WEST CUMBERLAND** District the units are developing a Saturday afternoon car service for old people at Maryport, while the usual jobs go on as before. **DALTON** helped to raise the necessary funds for the completion of an old folks' club, and **URSWICK** continues its waste paper collection. **MILLOM** and **HAVERIGG** are flexing their muscles for use in erecting huts at a children's camp. In South Westmorland, **MILNTHORPE** continues its work at the Open Prison, while **MORECAMBE** not only undertakes weekly visitation at all hospitals, but is also involved in sending parties of old people to Southport throughout the summer, with Congo Relief and the Save the Children Fund and almost every social activity in the town. It also runs a club for boys, mainly on probation, in its own rooms. **KIRKBY LONSDALE** maintains its hospital car service, and **ARNSIDE** its support for blind welfare. We have enjoyed visits from Alan Hill, Jack Shaw, John Callf and 'Pi' Mulumba-Musoke from Uganda.

EAST ANGLIA

from Reg Smith

Members in the MID-NORFOLK and WEST NORFOLK Districts, and COLCHESTER and IPSWICH Districts, met and heard Jack Harrison at King's Lynn and Colchester respectively. It was a surprise to many that the story and challenge of Toc H finance could be presented in such an interesting and attractive way. It is with more than ordinary confidence that the Divisional Treasurers believe the real thanks to Jack will be apparent in the size and regularity of future contributions to the Family Purse. A few days later, at an Area Weekend at Overstrand, eighty members from all parts of the Area gathered together under the leadership of Alec Churcher, who spoke of the reasons for training and the nature such training must take. The group discussions, voted to be the best ever, proved how effectively Alec had disturbed us out of any possible complacency.



Lillian Beam Ltd., Wisbech

Wisbech Branch presenting a portable Communion Table to the Clarkson Hospital as a memorial to George Elvin.

WISBECH Branch has presented a portable communion table to the Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech. The Matron had long wished for such a communion table and thanks were expressed on behalf of the Board of Management and Hospital Chaplains, after the Rev. W. V. Awdry, the Branch Padre, had led dedicatory prayers. As a result of the decision of the craftsman approached by the Branch to give the result of his art as his own expression of appreciation of the work of the Hospital, the Branch was able to hand over the table complete with cross and candlesticks. BROADS District members held a Training Day at the home of a member at Oulton Broad. Some half-dozen local men were welcome guests and have since received a Rushlight to recognise the experiment they are now making to form a Branch. The month closed with members of the Ipswich District manning the Toc H 'All-Night' Canteen at the Suffolk County Show.

SOUTH WALES

from C. T. Edwards

A recent notable event in South Wales was the official opening of the ROATH Branch new rooms in Fitzalan Place, Cardiff. After months of hard work the Branch has achieved an outstanding transformation; an old place in an appalling state has been converted into a really bright and attractive 'home'. Tom Divall unveiled a large portrait of the late E. E. (Ted) Lloyd, to whom the meeting room is dedicated, and all those who attended agree that the 'house warming' was indeed a 'heart-warming' experience.

WEST YORKSHIRE

from Ron Smith

Yorkshire Toc H Festival was held on Saturday, May 27 in the Huddersfield Mission, Queen Street, attended by men and women from Branches and groups in West and East Yorkshire. From 2.30 to 3 p.m. members assembled in the forecourt to greet one another and to be photographed before going into Church for the Festival Service. The Rev. Frank Thewlis, Superintendent of the Mission, conducted the Service and preached the Festival Sermon on the subject "The vocation of daily work", which inspired and challenged, and sparked off private discussion afterwards. Harold Day of Harrogate led us in Acts of Confession and Thanksgiving, and the organist was Herbert Armitage, whose brilliant musical leadership and the fervent singing of the hymns by about 350 worshippers added greatly to the total inspiration of the Service. A buffet tea, planned, prepared and served by the Huddersfield women, was very much appreciated and a delightful interlude between tea and the Festival evening was provided by the Crosland Moor Scouts Handbell Ringers. The children of members were entertained during the Festival evening with films and games, and to all those who denied themselves the pleasure of the Festival for the sake of the children, we are very grateful.

Fred Brook, Chairman West Yorkshire Area Executive, presided at the evening Festival and led Community Singing accompanied at the piano by Donald Greed of Newsome. After the impressive Procession of Banners the Plumer Lamp was used for the Ceremony of Light and the lighted Branch Lamps held by men and women in the Gallery Choir stalls added meaning to the Ceremony. Fred Brook, in his Chairman's address, left us in no doubt about his personal convictions concerning the relevancy and impact of Toc H. His clever use of humour and illustration gave sparkle to the seriousness of his stated belief, and prepared us for the greatness of the address by the Rev. Norman Charlton, Minister of Salem Congregational Church, Leeds, and Joint Chairman of the Leeds Council of Churches. His subject was "Christians in Industrial Society". We were privileged and pleased to listen to "The Music Makers", Huddersfield, whose broadcasts on the B.B.C. are well known and well loved. Two of our own 'boys' gave the final addresses of the Festival. Sidney Arnold of Huddersfield and former member of Central Executive, took us back to the 'yesterdays' of Toc H in his experience, and revealed interesting comparisons with Toc H today. John Taylor, Chairman of Mirfield Branch and Huddersfield District, and Clayton Volunteer 1960, shared his convictions and concerns for Toc H today and tomorrow. With these and all other reminders of our vocation we stood for Home-Going Prayers, and joined in a Hymn of Praise and Thanksgiving. A great Festival.



A party of visitors on the roof at Headquarters.

LINCOLNSHIRE

from George Lee

The three major events in the Area during the past month have been the first Area Meeting under the scheme of Promotion of District Teams; the visit to the Area of Sydney Swain to encourage new Builders amongst lapsed members; and the Gala at Spalding.

The former brought together Officers from all Districts in the Area. Though reports from each District showed only too clearly that we have all faced similar difficulties during the past year and been slow off the mark in putting the new scheme into operation, one sensed, amongst all the preparedness for, and desire for, a more active year ahead. In his talk with the Meeting, the Administrator said, "How a member acts in moments of decision is not decided by how he reacts at that time . . . the way he reacts has already been determined by how he has trained himself before the crisis". It is significant, therefore, that the major plans for the Area during the coming year are for training at all levels.

Sydney Swain, in less than a month in the Area covering three Districts, has encouraged the association with us of fifty-seven new Builders, and others visited have expressed the desire to return once again to active Branch life. As well as the financial gain from such contacts it shows the need for Branches to retain close links with those who for various reasons are forced to relinquish active Branch life. The Spalding Gala, with a record crowd, wonderful weather, and the support of the Chairman of the local Council, himself at one time a member of Toc H, proved a tremendous success and a most happy occasion on Whit Monday for helpers and supporters alike. It is said that the day after it was reckoned that (a) the Family Purse would benefit by more than in past years and (b) that many helpers suffered through loss of voice through having had to shout their wares above the stirring sounds of the old Gavioli Fairground Organ, recently televised, which was one of the main attractions of the day. All in all, a happy, progressive and exciting month for us all.

SOUTHERN

from Harry Devis

Hayling Island! What pleasant memories the name must recall of bathing and boating—sailing and fishing—peaceful summer days—a light breeze and a warm sun!! In summer a tourist's paradise where cars queue bumper to bumper on a Sunday from 9.0 in the morning to 9.0 at night. It was here, on the weekend before Whit Sunday that the S.E. HANTS District held a Training Weekend. The numbers attending fluctuated from fifteen to twenty, the atmosphere was cheerful and businesslike, and the speakers, Ted Inglis and Harry Devis, had an audience determined to learn. Ted, an old hand at this sort of thing, had two sessions—'Toc H Past' and 'Toc H Present', and he trailed his coat with great skill evoking questions from everyone present. Harry gave a history lesson on the background to the South African situation, and the questions that followed his talk strongly suggested that members were prepared to reorientate their thinking on the racial policies involved. Congratulations to Ron Carpenter, a good Chairman, and to Hayling Island Branch for smooth organisation. Even the weather was excellent!

EAST YORKSHIRE

from Bill Hardy

In BRIDLINGTON the local Scooter Club allied themselves with the Toc H Branch in organising a two-week Campaign for Blood Donors. Together they exceeded the target set them for the campaign and 850 Blood Donors were enlisted. We do not know whether free lifts by scooter to and from the Transfusion Centre were offered as an incentive, but certainly the response to the appeal was very good. Bridlington Branch make good use of their meeting room, the Rocket House, for jobs of service. Among the groups who meet there are the Disabled Fellowship, a Mentally Handicapped Youth Group, Discharged Prisoners' Aid Club (in which Toc H members play a helpful part), a Marriage Guidance Council; also Blood and Eye Donors are enrolled there. There is still room for Toc H holiday-makers in Bridlington to link up with the Branch. The Rocket House is situated in West Street, Bridlington, and well worth a visit.

GOOLE Branch were actively engaged for a whole weekend on Operation 'Lilacime', when bunches of lilac and other flowers, the gifts of members and friends, were taken round to many elderly and infirm people in the town, particularly those living alone. The Branch undertook responsibility for organising the annual Flag Day for the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Helped by members of the W.A. Branch and other collectors, a total of £57 was raised.

WESTERN

from Johnnie MacMillan

Members in the Area are looking forward to the official opening of the Western Area Centre on September 16, when the Founder Padre will turn the key on this, the first Toc H Centre of its kind in the country. A short Thanksgiving Service in St. Andrews Church will be led by the Bishop of Bristol, Dr. Oliver Tomkins. Amongst the guests invited are the Lord Mayor of Bristol and his Lady and the Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University.

HIGHBRIDGE & BURNHAM Branch, when they took out for the day the disabled folk from Staffordshire, staying at a local holiday camp, found that there are still some who have yet to see for the first time, fruit trees in flourish and the sun setting over the sea.

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The Competition is open to all readers of the Toc H JOURNAL and the closing date, October 2, 1961, has been fixed to enable overseas readers to take part. There are two sections: Black-and-White and Colour.

Entries are limited to not more than three prints or three transparencies from any one competitor and must be accompanied by a completed Entry Form.

The Black-and-White section is for contact prints 2½" square or larger, or enlargements up to half-plate size. These must bear name, address and title of print in ink on the back.

The Colour section is divided into two parts: one for reversal transparencies 35mm size and upwards, and the other for colour prints.

Colour transparencies must have entrant's name written on back of the cardboard mount and colour prints marked in the same manner as the black-and-white prints detailed above.

Colour transparencies and prints, if accompanied by adequate postage and packing, will be returned within four weeks of the closing date.

It is advisable to stiffen with cardboard the envelope containing your entry in order to prevent damage in the post.

All Black-and-White prints will remain the property of the Toc H JOURNAL, which undertakes to reproduce the winning entries.

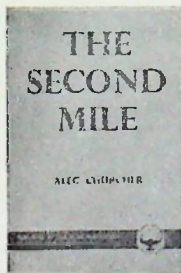
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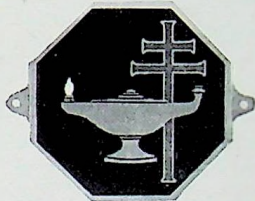
HOLIDAYS, 1962

IT IS HOPED to arrange a tour of Italy early in May, 1962, travelling by air and coach, and spending four nights in Rome, three in Florence, two in Venice, and visiting, among other places, Piza, Milan, Verona, Lucerne and Lake Como. Cost will be approximately £58. If you are interested please send name and address to "Italian Tour", Crutched Friars House, London, E.C.3, and you will be supplied with information as it becomes available. The party will be a 'mixed' one for both men and women.

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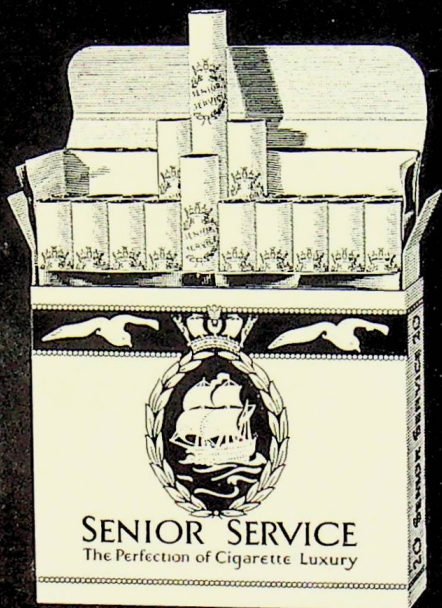
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